

Annual Report.
on the health of the Northallerton Urban
District for the year 1896.
Northallerton.

To The Chairman & Members of the Urban District
Council

Gentlemen

I herewith present my Annual Report,
of the Health of the Urban District of
Northallerton for the year 1896.

Population.

As regards the population, I have again to report
an increase, as will be seen by the following
Table, The average 4.84 of the years 1881 & 1891
(when the Census was taken) being used, for
estimating the population for the last 3 years.

Table I

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inhabited Houses.</u>	<u>Empty houses</u>	<u>Average per inhabited house.</u>	<u>Population</u>
1881.	464	62		3692.
1891	485	48	4.84	3802.
1894	863	6		4174.
1895	880	1		4259.
1896	894	2		4326.

The estimated population for the year 1896 is
therefore 4326.

The above Table not only shews the large number
of new houses built during the last five years,
but also the reduction of the number of empty houses.

Death Rate.

There have been 41 deaths during the year, 4
of these occurring among persons not belonging to
the Urban District. After deducting these deaths
from the total, it leaves 37 as the number
occurring, among the inhabitants of the Urban District.

The Death-rate therefore is 8.55 per 1000 per annum. This remarkably low death-rate is due to the splendid supply of pure water, the many sanitary improvements carried out by the Council, and the building of new houses, and it is one which Northallerton ought to be proud of.

The following Table shews the improvement in the death-rate & also in the Zymotic death-rate.

Table II		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Death-rate</u>	<u>Zymotic death-rate</u>
1890	20.84	—
1891	19.46	—
1892	22.35	2.6
1893	23.84	1.59
1894	10.53	0.44
1895	14.32	0.60
1896	8.55	0.46

Of these deaths, I am pleased to note, that there are only six occurring among children under 1 year old; and two of these were prematurely born, and only lived a few hours, & three others died before they were 1 month old; they all died from unavoidable causes; not one died from Infantile diarrhoea. The Infantile mortality in the district is 56.6 per 1000 births as against 90.9 last year.

Of the remaining number of deaths, there were two from Scarlet Fever, making the Zymotic death-rate, 0.46 per 1000.

Two died from Phthisis, as against 14 last year. There were 15 deaths among persons over 65 years of age, 14 of them being over 40 years of age.

Birth Rate.

There were 106 births registered during the year

making a birth-rate of 24.5 per 1000.

General Health.

The General Health of the Town has been good, as might be inferred from the low death-rate.

There have been about 18 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, but it has never assumed an epidemic form, these 18 cases extending over the whole year. With the exception of two fatal cases, which occurred in the same family, at the beginning of the year, the cases have been of a mild nature, so mild, in fact, that many were not medically treated, but only recognised by the subsequent "peeling of the skin?"

Unfortunately these mild cases are often the cause of the fever spreading; and I am of the opinion, that this is the reason, why we have had this Fever amongst us, since the Outbreak in June 1893. As the children are allowed to go about as soon as the feverish symptoms & sore throat have disappeared.

The adoption of the Compulsory Notification of the Infectious Diseases Act (1889) will be the only way of stamping out Fevers of this kind.

There has only been one case of Typhoid Fever during the year. Diphtheria broke out in August and although there were at least 20 cases, there was not a single death due to it; these cases occurred in different parts of the Town.

The severe wet weather which prevailed at the time, no doubt acted as a strong predisposing cause; as sore throats were prevalent both before & after the diphtheria made its appearance.

There was also an outbreak of Mumps in the Autumn. Many sanitary improvements have been carried out during the past year.

In The house, where the two fatal cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, the premises were found in a very bad condition. These houses had been built before that part of the Town was included in the Urban Authority's District. Notices were served on the owners, & the premises were put into a sanitary condition.

In another case, where there had been Typhoid followed by Diphtheria a few weeks afterwards the premises were found to be entirely without drains, & an old rain water tank was discovered underground with no overflow pipe. A new sanitary drain was laid down with a N.C. instead of the old system & The place put into a sanitary condition.

The question of scavenging has been under discussion several times during the year. The more I enquire into the question, the more convinced am I, that the middens, & the system of emptying them are ~~sources~~ of great danger to the Public health. There is still the depositing of excreta & ashes in the street & yards, which infringes the Bye Laws 5 & 6 wherein it states that filth must not be spilled upon any footway, pavement or carriage-way, & that proper receptacles be provided to prevent this spilling & dropping of filth & ashes.

I am pleased to report that the Council have decided to purify the sewage before it passes into the beck, the works, I understand are to be proceeded with at once.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently

Charles Tweedy
Medical Officer of Health.

